JAMMU

AND

KASHMIR.

PART I.

D. P. MASSON.

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CHAPTER I.

Introductory.

I CAN fancy nothing more bewildering to the Philatelist than his first glance in a catalogue at the pages devoted to the older Kashmir stamps. The list opens with no less than sixteen varieties, for stamps of only three denominations, and all apparently issued in the same year, 1866. The next glance shews that all this exhausts only the stamps printed from one set of dies. A list of seven more varieties follows, from new but very similar dies, and these too the product of the same year. Nor is this all, for further inspection shews that, so far, the student has been dealing only with the so-called *circular* dies, and he is next confronted with a list of twenty four varieties from *rectangular* dies, all for the same unending year of 1866. Passing at last to the next year, he finds an increase in the number of denominations, and no less than twenty-two new stamps to be mastered. In short, in the catalogue now before me—Stanley Gibbons' for 1899—he will find the years 1866-7 represented by sixty-nine different stamps, apparently in all the colours of the rainbow. And this is a moderate total compared with that of other catalogues; the latest Scott catalogue before me has ninety-four varieties of circular stamps and ninety-nine old rectangulars! No wonder this should have puzzled even such an expert as Major Evans, who wrote regarding the colours generally that they "were dictated more by the taste and fancy of the printer, or the resources of his establishment in the way of ink than by the requirements of the Post

Office." Major Evans had not then had the same opportunities as I have had of examining these stamps on the "original," or we should long ago have had the difficult made plain: I gratefully acknowledge that it was his articles in the *Philatelic Record* for 1887 and 1888 that directed my enquiries regarding these stamps, ten years later, and so have led to the publication of this Hand Book.

The task which I have set before me is to endeavour to arrange in their order all the colours that were used in the printing of genuine stamps, making each tell the story of its birth, life and retirement from public service; it will be found that, where the stamps are genuine, the various colours for the same denominations represent different issues, some of them dating long after 1866; and I trust that this new classification will so simplify matters as to make the study of the lovely old stamps of Kashmir a comparatively easy matter. I do not at all flatter myself that I have thoroughly mastered the subject, but only that I have advanced it by a stage beyond the point where Major Evans left it.

First of all, I take the liberty of removing from the lists all the long cherished circular half-anna and one-anna stamps of the so called "Die I" type, also the stamps in many colours from the so called rectangular "one-anna *single die*," giving my reasons in a future chapter. With their removal, several of the bewildering colours will disappear temporarily or permanently.

I will next ask my readers to master a general idea of the issues by remembering the following main facts:—

1. The earliest postage stamps of Kashmir, issued in 1866, were impressions from only one set of *Circular* dies, *viz.* the half-anna and one-anna known

in the catalogues as "Die II," and the four-annas which has hitherto been classified with the so called "Die I" types. These stamps were used both in the Jammu and Kashmir Provinces.

2. On the introduction of *rectangular* stamps, two sets of plates were engraved, of which one was reserved for the Kashmir Province and the other for the Jammu Province, the issues thus bifurcating.

3. The Jammu Province, however, continued to use circular stamps, side by side, with its rectangular stamps, *and in the same colours for both circular and rectangular.*

4. The bifurcation of issues, for the two provinces, reunited in the issue of 1878, known as the "first new rectangulars", all circular and the old rectangulars ceasing with the issues of 1877.

The above classification is, as I have said, a general one. As a matter of fact there was naturally an overlapping of the circular with the rectangular issues in both provinces in 1867 or occasionally even later, and in the case of the Jammu province I believe that the circular stamps were obsolete, for a year or more, before their re-introduction. Again, the new rectangulars of 1878 were issued in a separate colour for each province, though both colours were very soon used indiscriminately in either, and the first uniform issue for both provinces was that of 1879; but these are details that can be mastered later on.

Next, as regards colours, I have classified these under three heads—*experimental, standard* and *superfluous.* The experimental or earliest colours were generally used only for a few months; the standard were the colours finally chosen as the permanent ones—and, in the case of the rectangulars of

both provinces, as well as the re-issue of the circulars, they were steadily adhered to for about 10 years; the superfluous appeared (for the Jammu circulars and rectangulars only) in 1875 or 1876, supplementing (but not superseding) the standard colours sparingly during 1875 (?) and 1876 and more generally in 1877. The Superfluous colours were, I believe, adopted under "the gentle influence of philately," and all that can be said in their favour is that they gave us the superb emerald-green and bright-blue stamps, which, when genuinely used, are amongst the Kashmir collector's greatest treasures.

CHAPTER II.

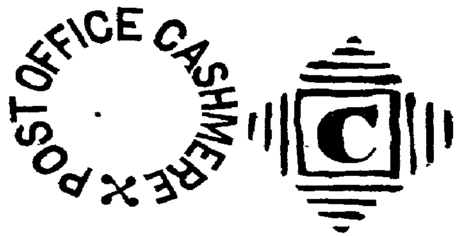
Obliterations of the first period.

Before proceeding to describe the stamps of the first period I think it will be well to mention the obliterations that were then in use, because I shall from time to time have to refer to them. The obliterations for the second period, 1877-1894, will be taken up in the second part of the Hand Book.

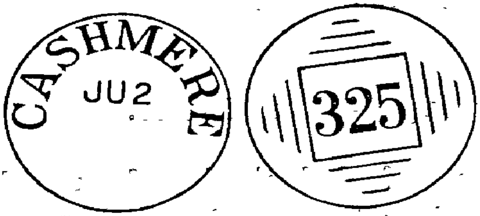
As regards the *State Post Offices*, nothing could exceed the simplicity or consistency of the obliterations. At *Srinagar* (Kashmir) the obliterator was a circular seal, about 19 mms. in diameter, bearing an inscription (always illegible) finely cut in Persian characters. This was impressed on the stamps in a *brick-red* pigment. The impression is sometimes fairly clear, shewing the outline of the seal, but it is more often a mere circular "dab" of colour, and sometimes—from the material being too liquid—it is little better than an oil stain. This obliteration was used throughout the whole period of the circulars and old rectangulars, 1866-1877. Occasionally a stamp posted at *Srinagar* may be found bearing the same obliteration in black; but these are stamps posted out of their period (after 1877), the black obliteration having been introduced simultaneously with the appearance of the new rectangulars. In *Leh-Ladakh* (included in the Kashmir province) a similar seal and colour were used at the State Post Office, but the seal was soon replaced by a much larger one, about 28 mms. in diameter, without any change in colour. This change was probably considered necessary to distinguish the obliterations of Srinagar from those of Leh, because at the time there were no other postmarks. At *Jammu* there was a little more variety in the obliterations. Throughout the

period of the first circular issues, and the two first rectangular issues (in black and blue in succession), that is to say from 1866 till the middle of 1868, the obliterations were from a seal similar to the Srinagar one (but with the Persian characters more boldly cut) the impression being, however, in *magenta*. Soon after the introduction of the standard colour of red for the Jammu Province stamps, about June 1868, the impression was of necessity changed to black. At the beginning of 1870 the circular seal was changed for a square one, measuring about 19 mms., having rounded corners, and this was continued throughout the remainder of this period.

At the *British Post Office, at Srinagar*, the earliest obliteration was from a rather rough combined date-stamp and obliterator, composed of a circle and square. The former bore the words "Cashmere Post Office" round the edge, in circular form: the latter was composed of two squares, within each other, the inner one enclosing a large capital C, and the outer being made up of diminishing lines. This was used to obliterate the Indian stamps ; and a similar date stamp, without the attached obliterator, was used to obliterate the Kashmir stamp when the cover bore no Indian one. These forms of obliteration were adhered to throughout the years 1867-70. Thereafter, for some years, the British postal authorities do not seem to have considered the Maharaja's interests, as the State stamps were seldom obliterated at all, though the want was often supplied by impressions of the Punjab Post Offices, especially those of Sialkot and Amritsar. About 1873 a new set of post marks was introduced, consisting as before of a date stamp and a combined date-stamp and obliterator, the use



of the two stamps being differentiated as before. In this set the word "Cashmere" occupies the upper half of one circle in circular form, the remainder being reserved for the date, which however was seldom inserted: the other circle was occupied by the figures "325", within a double square as before.



About the same time a small triangular post mark was used, for some special purpose, having the word "Cashmere" along the base and the date above: this and the last mentioned sometimes appear on the same envelope. In 1876 another set of post marks was introduced, the date-stamp circle having the new Hunterian spelling "Kashmir" across the centre, with the day and month (but not the year) below; the obliteration portion was made up of a square of parallel bars, having the figure "5" at the top, and "L—6" along the centre. These were used as before until the end of the old rectangular period—and indeed well into the new rectangular period.

At the *British Post Office* at *Leh* (*Ladakh*) there was a separate circular date-stamp, bearing the word "Leh" across the centre, and the date (but not the year) below: there was also a square, barred obliterator, similar to the Srinagar one last mentioned, but it bore the figure "3" above and "L-3" across the centre. The obliterations from the latter were generally in a sooty-grey, and are seldom legible.

CHAPTER III.

Circular Stamps—First Issue.

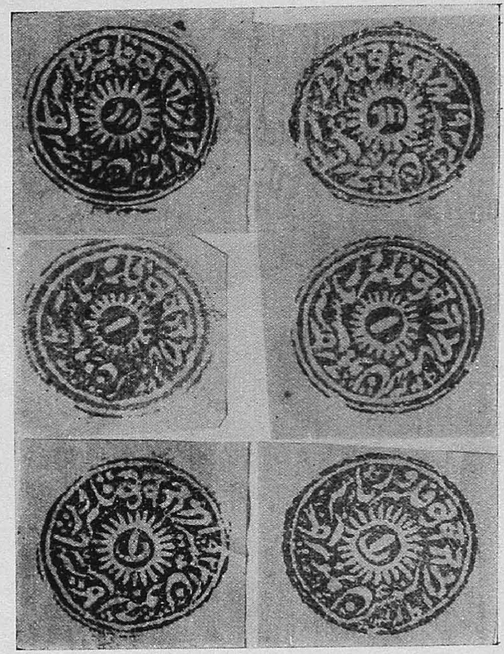
These, the earliest stamps of Kashmir, date from early in 1866, probably from March or April of that year. They were used both in the Jammu and Kashmir provinces, those used in the former bearing the magenta, and those used in the latter the brick-red obliteration of their respective provinces.

They were printed on native laid hand-made paper, in three denominations, from three separate dies* representing half-anna, one-anna and four-annas. The design is alike in all three cases—in the centre a hollow radiating sun, bearing the characters denoting the value; surrounding the sun are inscriptions in the Dogra and Persian characters; and each die is finished off by two outer circles, the inner of these being a heavy one and the outer a light one.

To enable my readers to follow the reading of the inscriptions I would ask them to consider the first Dogra letter, which looks like a rough figure 3, as the key of the position, and to place the first Persian letter on its left in the position of 12 o'clock on a watch dial. Now, reading from left to right, the five bold Dogra letters represent the words *Dak Jammu*, or *post of Jammu*; and are followed by the figures 1923, corresponding with our year 1866. Returning now to the position of 12 o'clock, and reading from right to left, the Persian character runs *Kalmráo*

*For illustration see the three left-hand stamps on plate I, at top.

TOP.



riyásat Sarkár Jammu Kashmir, or *Dominions of the Ruler of Jammu and Kashmir.*

The values, within the central sun, are indicated much in the same way as we represent shillings and pence on the left and right hand sides of a vertical stroke, and pence some times by a solitary figure, followed by the letter "d." In this case a curve is used instead of our vertical stroke: strokes outside the curve represent each a quarter of an anna, strokes inside the curve represent quarters of a rupee, and a solitary stroke represents an anna. The half-anna denomination is therefore shewn by two strokes outside a curve (two quarters of an anna), the anna by a single solitary stroke, and the four-annas by a stroke within a curve (one-quarter of a rupee).

The first issue of circular stamps extended over a period of about two years, until early in 1868. The standard colours were :—

Half-anna, black

One-anna, blue } with shades.
Four-annas, blue }

I should be glad if I could say that only these standard colours were used, but I am compelled to add two more stamps to the first list of circulars, *viz* :—

One-anna, black

Four-annas, black.

Now, how is this departure from the standard colour, at the very outset almost, to be accounted for? I venture to give an explanation which I believe to be well founded. When I come to a description of the Jammu and the Kashmir rectangular stamps (see Chapters IV and V) I will

shew that the earliest colour experiment in each province was in black. I believe that the black circular one-anna and four-annas stamps were contemporaneous with these black rectangulars, and were in fact printed from the only pigment being used at that time. Doubtless half-anna circular stamps were also printed, with the other two black denominations; but there is no possible way of separating these from the early *standard* stamp of that denomination. Both were in the same colour, and there was no change of obliteration to shew which were printed side by side with the one and four-annas blues, and which side by side with the one and four-annas blacks. The above seems to me a simple way of explaining the introduction of the black colour for the higher value of circular stamps, and it is supported by the course undoubtedly adopted throughout the whole period of the re-issue of circular stamps, when these were always printed in the colours current from time to time for the Jammu rectangulars.

It is possible, too, on the same principle, that all three denominations were printed in blue, at the time when the "second experimental" Jammu rectangulars were being printed in that colour. This would account for a known black-blue one-anna stamp, the colour of which is very like that of the Jammu rectangulars of the period. But a half-anna circular blue is unknown, and the one and four-annas stamps, if ever printed, have merged in the *standard* blues—the obliterations being alike.

Some catalogues include in the first issues such colours as vermilion and orange, but I am confident that these were contemporaneous with the standard water-colour red issues of the Jammu rectangulars, and were used from 1869 or 1870 until 1877. All used copies will be found to bear the

Jammu black circular seal or black square seal obliterations of that period—the former very rarely.

It will be seen that, in spite of the numerous colours of the catalogues, the first issues of circular stamps was simple enough. Excluding shades in blue, there are just five stamps in all, for three denominations—a total very different from that of the catalogue.

I shall now leave the circular stamps altogether, for a time. After the first issues, described above, they were abandoned in the Kashmir Province, and in the Jammu Province they were re-introduced only as supplementary to the rectangular issues, and in their colours. In these circumstances I consider that a description of the rectangulars of each province claims the next place.

CHAPTER IV.

The old rectangulars of the Jammu province.

These stamps were printed in sheets, from a block of four stamps, the lower left hand stamp of each block being a one-anna one, and the other three being half annas.* The illustrations of both stamps given in the catalogues, are extremely misleading, especially in the case of the half-anna stamp. Each stamp is shewn as complete with border lines of the colour of the stamp, and with a margin of the colour of the paper, whereas the only border line (and that a very light one), and the only possible margin, are on the edge of the complete block of four stamps. Each of the four stamps has an outer and an inner oval line; the outer oval is really a circle, with a radius of 11 mms., but having its sides cut off where it approaches the outer edge of the block and where it impinges on the adjoining stamp; where the tops of the lower row meet the upper row the circles just touch. Between the oval lines at the top is a star, separating the words "Jammoo" and "Kashmir" in Dogra character: the lower part of the space is occupied by practically the same Persian inscription as appears on the circular stamps. Within the inner oval in each case are three horizontal lines of vernacular. In the half-anna the value *nim anna* (with the date 1923 in very small Persian character to the right) occupies the first line; the second repeats the value, *adha anna,* in Dogra character; and the third repeats the date in the same character. In the one-anna stamp the same arrangement is repeated, but the Persian date is left out, there being no space for it.

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*See plate II.

I believe the colours were issued in the following order. The periods are fixed from originals that I have personally examined, but of course they might have extended for a few months earlier or later. For convenient reference I repeat the obliteration in each case:—

First rectangular issue, black; obliteration, seal or "dab" in magenta; water-colour.—These are very rare stamps, and is difficult to arrive at conclusions from the few copies of each denomination which I have seen. Still, I think I may venture on the assertion, judging from these and from the less rare Kashmir Province black stamps in my possession, that the earliest issue of Jammu rectangulars was in black, and that this colour was used only for a few months, experimentally. The only half-anna stamp of this issue which I have seen is on an envelope posted in Jammu, and bearing the Sialkot postmark of 13th September 1867. This would go to shew that the first circular issue and the black rectangular issue overlapped. The obliteration is of the greatest importance in the case of these stamps, to distinguish them from the black stamps of the issue of 1875-6 mentioned below.

Second rectangular issue, blue; same obliteration; water-colour. This colour which includes the *indigo-blue, deep ultramarine* and *deep violet-blue* (but *not* the *bright-blue*) of the catalogues—is also fairly rare, as it too appears to have been experimental, though for a longer time. It extended over a period of about nine months, from September 1867 to May 1868.

Third rectangular issue, red, with its catalogue shades of orange and orange-red; water-colour; obliteration, up to*

* There is an impression that no orange stamps of the one-anna denomination exist, but I have myself seen three copies.

about end of 1869, the same circular seal but in black, thereafter the square black seal.—About the middle of 1868 the Jammu Authorities settled down to the standard colour of red, to which they steadily adhered (with one departure from the straight path which I shall include under the heading "superfluous issues") until the new type of rectangulars was introduced in 1878. I have said that the standard colour was red, but of necessity—seeing that the printing was done by hand, and the colours were constantly being mixed afresh—there are shades of orange and orange-red.

Fourth rectangular issue; dull-red and red-brown, 1877; oil colour; same obliteration. In this issue, while there is no change of colour, we have two great innovations in that (1) the stamps are printed in oil colours, and (2) European paper (laid) is used for the first time, as well as native paper. I think this issue must be considered as only supplementary to the third issue, though oils would no doubt have superseded water-colours had all old rectangulars not become obsolete in the following year.

Though the change from water-colour to oil may have been for the better as regards durability in the stamps, it was certainly not an improvement to their appearance; the rectangular issues, especially, are generally badly printed, and as often as not the greater part of the inscription is quite illegible.

It will be seen that so far, there was a thorough consistency in the colours of the Jammu rectangulars—a settling down to the standard colour of red, after experiments with black and blue. But I must, alas! now come to the departures from the true path. These I shall describe under the heading of :—

Superfluous issues—(*a*) *Water colour; black, emerald-green* and *bright-blue; obliteration, the square black seal.* These were issued in 1875 (?) and 1876, as supplementary to the standard red water-colour rectangulars then in use. The black stamps can be distinguished from those of 1867 only by the obliteration. The pigment of the bright-blues differs greatly from that of the 1867-8 blues, and these could be mistaken only by a novice; but here again the obliteration will distinguish the two issues. These bright-blues are very beautiful and rare stamps, as are also the emerald-greens.

(*b*). *Oil colours; dull blue and black; same obliteration.* When oil was substituted for water-colour in the standard reds, in 1877, the supplementary superfluous colours were continued in very dull oils. They were very badly printed, and all the stamps I have seen, have oxidised badly. One shews a tinge of green through the oxidation, and it is very likely that they may have been printed in the three colours of the water colours which they superseded. I have seen none of these oils on European paper, and I feel certain it may be asserted with truth that only the standard colour of red was issued on such paper, so far as the Jammu *rectangulars* are concerned. We shall see later that the contemporaneous *circular* oils were printed in all these colours, on European paper. There is a want of the usual uniformity about this which I regret; but so it is.

CHAPTER V.

The old rectangulars of the Kashmir Province.

I have shewn that the old rectangulars of the Jammu Province were all printed from a single plate of four stamps, one being a one-anna stamp and the other three half-anna stamps.

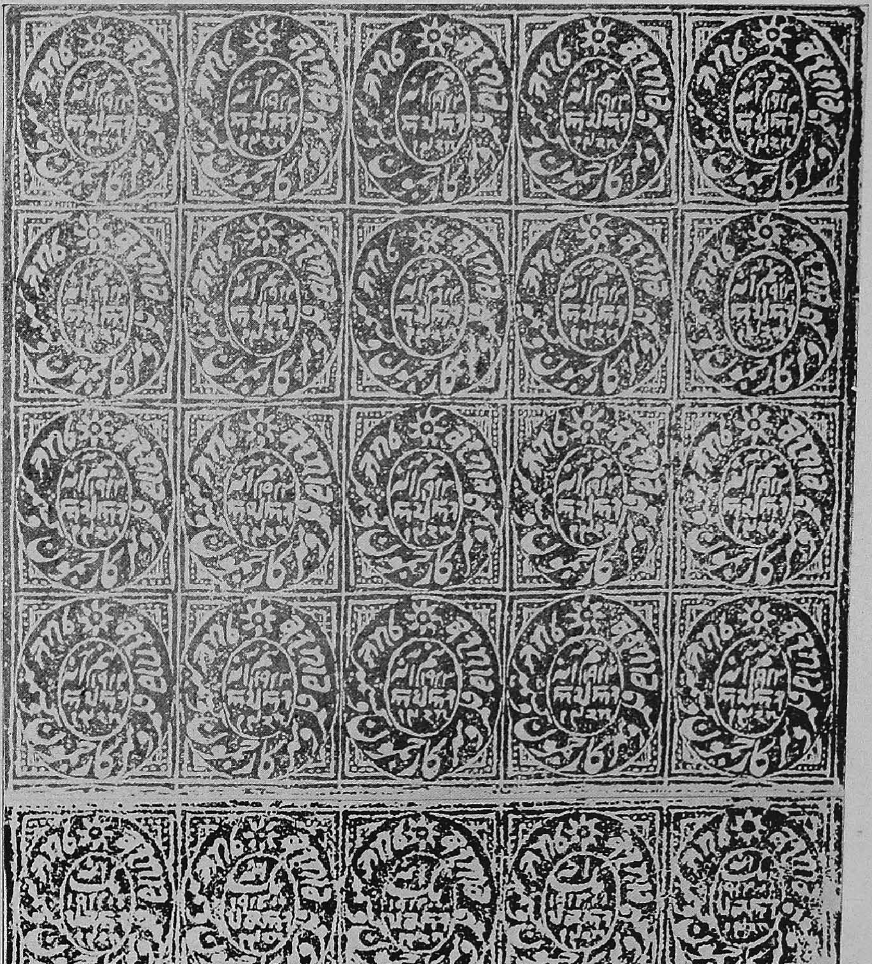
In the case of the old rectangulars of the Kashmir Province there are a great many more types, *viz.*:—

Half-anna,	temporary die	1	type *
Quarter-anna,	permanent plate	5	types ‡
Half-anna,	„ „	20	„ †
One-anna,	„ „	5	„ †
Two-annas,	„ „	5	„ ‡
Four-annas,	„ die	1	type **
Eight-annas.	„ „	1	„ **

This gives in all thirty-eight types, as against four for Jammu. The plates were all engraved by Rahat Joo, a seal-cutter, still living near the Bahuri Kadal at Srinagar in Kashmir. He is now an old man and palsied; but his hand has not lost its cunning, for he quite recently cut some beautiful seals for me.

I wish to correct the prevailing impression, which appears in the catalogues, that the half-anna and one-anna stamps of the series to which I am now referring are an

* See plate 2, lowest stamp.
† „ „ 3
‡ „ „ 4
** „ „ 6, 2nd and 3rd stamps of left-hand row.



issue of 1924, that which I have described as the Jammu stamps being considered the only issue dated 1923. The misunderstanding arose through the fourth figure in the Dogra year being shaped like an English three, on the Jammu plate, while in the Kashmir ones it differs considerably and looks like a rough letter "n." I was very much puzzled over the latter being considered a 4, because in all plates where the year is quoted also in Persian figures, whether of Jammu or Kashmir, it is given distinctly as 1923. It appeared, therefore, as if there was an error in the plates; and I was convinced that such an error must be in the Dogra figure, and not in the Persian, because I had half-anna stamps of the so-called 1924 single die (corresponding to our 1867) on envelopes undoubtedly posted in 1866. The whole difficulty was cleared away unexpectedly at an interview which I had with three reliable native gentlemen—Sardar Devi Singh, Prime Minister of the Poonch State, the Vakil of the same State and his Munshi. I mention the persons that there may be no doubt about the authority. All agree that the figure hitherto read as a 4 is a recognized 3, and all the Jammu and Kashmir plates may therefore undoubtedly be considered to bear the same date, *viz.*, 1923 (1866). This unfortunate difference in the appearance of the figure "3" led to much confusion in Europe, and naturally to a wrong grouping of the plates.

The half-anna and one-anna stamps were printed from the same plate, which was made up of four rows of five half anna stamps, and one row (the lowest) of five one-anna stamps. The quarter-anna and two-anna stamps were also from one plate, made up of five quarter-anna stamps in the upper row and five two-anna stamps on the lower. The four and eight-anna stamps were each from a single die. Though all the plates are dated 1866, I believe that no stamps were

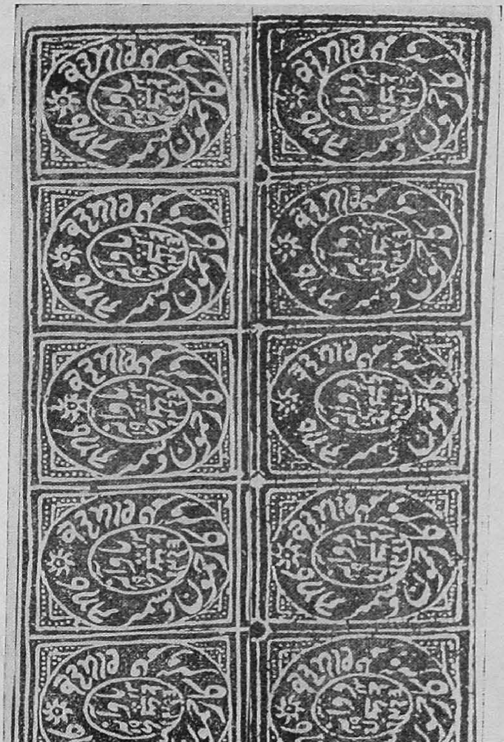
printed from them until 1867 with the one exception of the half-anna single die.

I shall now proceed to mention the various printings from the plates, fixing the probable dates of each issue from personal inspection of originals or other reliable data. As in the case of the Jammoo issues, we have *experimental* and *standard* but fortunately no *superfluous* issues. The catalogued 1-anna stamp from a single die, in many colours, will be disposed of jointly with the Circular "Die I," for I believe they are near relatives. I do not repeat the obliterations as in the case of the Jammu issues, because they are invariably the brick-red seals of the Srinagar and Leh State Post Offices, or the marks of the British Post Offices.

The first rectangular stamp used in the Kashmir Province was the black half-anna, printed from a single die. In general appearance this die closely resembles the Jammu Province type described in the preceding chapter. It differs from all other genuine old rectangular stamps of either province in having no dotted lines in the spandrels. The illustrations of this stamp in the catalogues are invariably incorrect—in fact the catalogues seem to reproduce the forgery, an illustration in *Le Timbre-Poste*, against which they warn collectors. The stamp was used at least as early as October 1866, as I have seen it on an envelope of that date. It probably superseded the half-anna circular stamp, in the Srinagar Province, until the permanent plate for that denomination was introduced. It must have been used for only a very short time, as it is rare.

We now come to the *permanent plates* which were used throughout until the end of the old rectangular period. Their design, as compared with that of the Jammu stamps, shews two very marked differences which at once strike the

TOP.



eye—(1) the ovals are much narrower, and (2) each stamp is complete with margin, the ovals of the adjoining stamps not quite touching one another on the plate. (See Plates). As compared with the half-anna and one-anna rectangular denominations of Jammu, Kashmir has four more denominations—the quarter anna and the two, four and eight-annas. The inscriptions &c., are much as in the Jammu issues; in the half-anna the Persian date is given in first line, just as in the Jammu issue; but in the one-anna die of Kashmir the date is given in small Persian characters, below the denomination, while the Jammu issue I have shown that this is wanting. In the two-anna stamp the date is given in the same line, but the "19" is on the left edge and "23" on the right edge of the oval, with a space between: the quarter-anna die has the same arrangement, but the space between the two pairs of figures is occupied by vowel dots connected with characters above. In the four and eight-anna dies the date is not given in Persian. In all, the date is repeated at the foot, in Dogra characters.

Experimental Issues.

As in the Jammu Province, so also in Kashmir, there were experiments in black and blue (but only from the composite half-anna and one-anna plate) before the postal authorities settled down to standard colours for all the permanent plates.

For the first experimental issue we have the whole plate printed in black, giving us the

Half-anna black and *one-anna black*.—This was contemporaneous with the Jammu black issue.

After this the whole plate must have been printed in blue (as a blue one-anna stamp is known) giving us the

Half-anna blue and *one-anna blue.*—This mode of printing must have been in use for an extremely short time, as the one anna blue stamp is probably one of the rarest of all Kashmirs. We now come to the—

PERMANENT ISSUES OF 1867-1877.

These were the permanent or standard colours, arrived at after the above mentioned experiments, and consistently adhered to without any change until the end of the old rectangular period in 1877. These were the

Quarter-anna black.—A stamp of so low a denomination was required on account of the concession of half rates to outsiders resident in Kashmir, on all letters posted at the British Post Offices there. (Such letters were charged with full British postal rates, in addition to the half Kashmir rates, and they bore both Indian and Kashmir stamps.)

Half-anna blue.—This is similar in every respect to the same stamp in the blue experimental issue. The only change, in the permanent printings, was that only the 20 half-anna stamps were inked in blue, the one-anna row being inked in its new colour.

One-anna orange, yellowish-orange, red-orange, orange-brown and *dark-brown.*—I have not seen a *yellow* copy as catalogued, and I think that in the many shades of this stamp *pale orange* is the nearest approach to yellow. Surely yellow is a careless and incorrect classification, as that colour was reserved for the two-anna stamp. Nor have I seen a vermilion, as catalogued: this also must be a mistake, as red and its shades were the colours reserved for the Jammu issue stamps, always excepting the 8-anna red Srinagar stamp, which denomination could not cause confusion with such low values as the half-anna and one-anna of Jammu. No stamp, however, shews such a variety of colour as does this one-anna stamp—in

my collection I have all possible colours, from the palest orange up to a very dark brown.

Two-anna yellow.—These stamps show slight difference in shade: Some shew specks of mica in the pigment.

Four-anna green.—This stamp is printed in several shades, varying from bright-green to sage-green.

Eight-anna red.—This is a rare stamp in India, though it seems fairly common in Europe.

I learn from Major Evans that the whole set of six values in the permanent colours were sent by Major Crawcroft of Rawalpindi to Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co., in November 1867 : probably they were in use for a few months before this time.

All the used copies I have seen of the above mentioned stamps of the Kashmir Province are printed in water colours, and on native-made paper, thickish to thick (the ordinary textures of these hand-made papers): there is one exception, in a four-annas green on thin tough paper, which also seems of native make. All oil colours, and stamps printed on European paper, *from the Kashmir Province plates,* must I think be classed as Essays or as reprints "to order." I have never seen one postally used.*

I trust I have shewn that there was a thorough consistency in the Kashmir Province issues—a settling down to standard colours throughout, after experiments in black and blue with the composite half-anna one-anna plate only.

* With regard to these stamps Major Evans writes :—"It is difficult to know what to call these : impression made while the stamps are in use are certainly not re-prints, and there is no doubt the quarter-anna, four annas and eight-annas on ordinary laid paper (similar to that of the unified series and of some of the Afghans) were made as early as 1876 ; and the two-anna in water colour, on thin laid and batonné papers are put down by Moens as of 1874, They are of early date, no doubt, and possibly the whole printings of these came to Europe, but the two-anna is scarce. The half-anna and one-anna of Kashmir I have never seen on these papers, which seems to be against the " printed to order" theory "

CHAPTER VI.

Jammu Circular Re-Issues.

These were printed and used, as already mentioned, side by side with the Jammu rectangulars, and in the same colours *standard* and *superfluous*. They were :—

(*I.*) *Water Colours.*

1869—76.

(*a*) *Standard colours—Red, with shades.*

½ anna red 1 „ „ 4 annas „	(Standard colours).
½ anna vermilion 1 „ „ 4 annas „ ½ anna orange-red 1 „ „ „ 4 annas „ „	(Shades of standard colours)

1875—6.

(*b*) *Superfluous colours—supplementary to the above.*

½ anna black
1 „ „
4 annas „
½ anna emerald-green
1 „ „ „
4 annas „ „
½ anna bright-blue
1 „ „ „
4 annas „ „

½ anna yellow 1 „ „ 4 annas „	This colour does not seem to have been used in the "superfluous" *rectangular* stamps.

(*II.*) *Oil Colours.*

1877.

(*a*) *Standard colours.*

½ anna red
1 „ „
4 annas „

1877.

(*b*) *Superfluous colours.*

These were simply a continuation of the colours of the superfluous water-colours.

½ anna black
1 „ „
4 annas „
½ anna sage-green
1 „ „
4 annas „
½ anna slate-blue
1 „ „
4 annas „

All the above are on native laid paper.

We next come to the introduction of European paper, as in the case of the contemporaneous rectangulars of the Jammu Province; but, whereas in the rectangulars only the standard colours were printed on European paper, we have in the circulars the colours of the *superfluous* water-colours repeated in oils.

(*III.*) *Oil Colours on European laid paper.*

1877.

(*a*) *Standard colours.*

½ anna vermilion
1 „ „
4 annas „

1877.

(*b*) *Superfluous colours.*

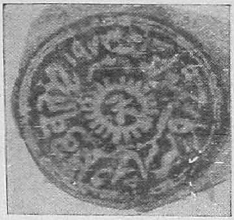
½ anna black
1 „ „
4 annas „
½ anna blue
1 „ „
4 annas „
½ anna yellow
1 „ sage-green

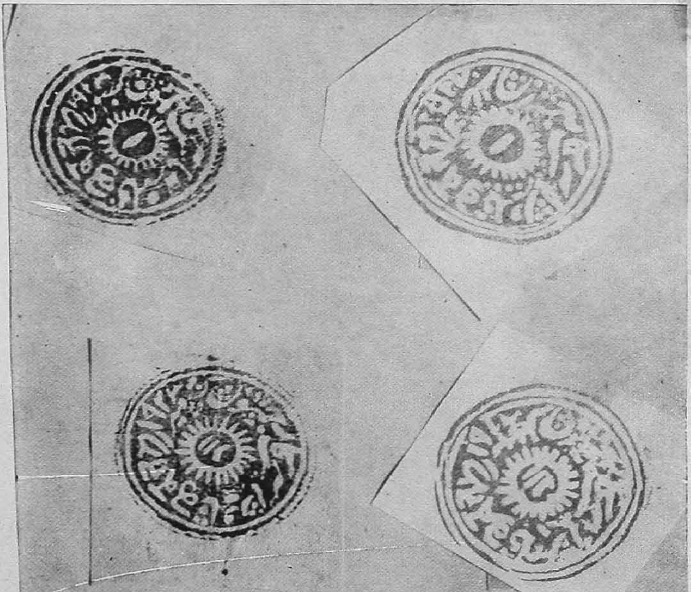
(*IV.*) *Oil Colours on European thick laid paper.*

1 anna vermilion—standard colour.
4 annas deep blue—superfluous colour.

In the above list I simply repeat that in Stanley Gibbon's latest catalogue (1899), but I separate the standard colours from the superfluous ones, and slightly alter the dates of the former.

I cannot say why the four last mentioned in the above list have not their full complement of the three denominations. I know of no reason whatever why they should not have, while there is every reason why they should, and it is possible the missing stamps may have been printed, though they are not known.





CHAPTER VII.

Three hoary-headed Impostors.

Three stamps have imposed upon advanced collectors for about thirty years, and I am very pleased to be the means of bringing them to justice in the end.

The first two are the half-anna and one-anna of the so called "Die I" circular type. I have carefully examined both a "used" and an unused copy of the half-anna stamp, and I do not hesitate to say that both are forgeries. I have not seen a copy of the one-anna stamp, but the illustration in Stanley Gibbons' catalogue shews it to be a near relative of the half-anna one.

I place side by side (see Plate V, four upper stamps) the illustration of "Die I," from the catalogue, and clear impressions from the genuine die of 1866, known as "Die II," those on the right being the latter. On examination the first thing that strikes one is that the

characters in either case occupy exactly similar positions on the dies. This fact is in itself suspicious, because, if two successive sets of dies were cut, as the supporters of this stamp assert, what necessity was there for a slavish following in the second set of the exact position, and (as far as possible), the exact shape of each character on the previous die? This to my mind is the first proof that "Die I" is simply a forgery, cut to represent "Die II."

The next striking difference between the dies is the extreme roughness of the cutting of "Die I" as compared with "Die II". On well printed copies of the latter, all the finer lines and curves of the Persian characters are reproduced with fair clearness, while in the former there are neither fine lines nor curves. The Persian on "Die I" is a rude imitation, and could never have been cut by a literate Indian: it is in fact a series of "shots" at reproducing the characters on "Die II." To shew how wide of the mark these "shots" are, I need only refer to the characters representing the word "Kashmir" which lie between the date (1923) and the central sun, on the die, occupying the space between half past three and six o'clock on the dial. It is utterly impossible that any person who knew what he was doing could have converted these characters into the Noah's ark toy-animals shewn in "Die I," the vowel dots being converted into legs. The Dogra letters (occupying the position between 1 and 3 o'clock), being boldly cut on the original, are naturally reproduced more faithfully.

The roughness of the engraving is admitted by the supporters of the stamps, and is even used as a proof of their genuineness and rarity; their theory is that, being so roughly cut, the dies were immediately superseded by superior ones. I venture to assert that it is simply impossible such dies could

for one hour have been used, for Government or other purposes, in a country where at the time seal-cutting had attained the excellence of a fine art. The dies appear to have been cut in Europe, from poor or heavily obliterated copies of "Die II" or from photographs. The photograph theory might account for the slight difference in size between the genuine and forged dies. At the time there was a considerable correspondence between Srinagar and Paris, in connection with shawl trade, and I feel confident that "Die I" was made in France.

The obliteration on the stamp which I have seen is, like the stamp itself, a forgery. It is meant to represent the brick-red obliteration of the Srinagar Post Office; but, whereas all genuine obliterations are impressions or "dabs" from the well known small circular seal, in this case the colour is smudged lightly over the greater part of the face of the stamp.

A fellow-felon of "Die I" is the rectangular one-anna "single die" of the catalogues, in many colours, (Stanley Gibbons, 1899, Nos. 97-103). Like its hoary-headed companion in crime, this die has imposed upon advanced collectors in Europe for the last thirty years.

This is what Major Evans wrote, in 1887, of this die:— "There is, at all events, no doubt, that there is a one-anna stamp, dated 1924, and differing from any of the five varieties in which the common one-anna of this design exists. All the specimens I have seen are fairly distinctly printed. It has a regularly formed lotus-flower at the top, the date in Persi-Arabic (the second line inside the oval) is in very minute figures, under the long, more or less horizontal, character forming the word "one." This character is more distinctly sloped upwards to the left than in any of the five varieties on the strip. The stamp is not infrequently met with in carmine-red. It is also found in other colours, but is scarce

All I have seen are on ordinary native-made greyish paper * * * * * . As far as I can make out M. Moens only catalogues this one-anna in black. I think it right, therefore, to mention that I possess specimens in blue, brown and carmine-red, and that I have found it also in orange-red in the collection of the President of the Philatelic Society."

The number of colours in which this stamp is printed is its absolute condemnation. It is clearly of the Kashmir type, not of the Jammu one. If it were a genuine die, therefore, its only place in the philatelic history of its province would have been as a companion to the rare half-anna single die of 1866. Like that half-anna stamp it would have been printed only in black, justifying M. Moens; it would have been superseded by the composite plate of 20 half-anna and 5-anna stamps in 1867, and that would have been the end of it. Let us grant a little more, and allow that the one-anna die had survived the half-anna one, and had been printed from, side by side with the composite plate, and in the same colours, during the second experimental and the final standard printings from the latter; this would account for the blue, the orange-red and perhaps the brown colours. But how, by any possibility, could impressions from a Kashmir one-anna die be printed in *vermilion* and *carmine-red*, seeing that red and its shades were reserved for the Jammu stamps—except in the one case of the *eight-anna* Kashmir stamp already mentioned. (I am aware that some catalogues chronicle a vermilion stamp from the standard Kashmir province plate, but this cannot be correct: a fiery orange-red is the nearest approach to this colour possible).

Suppose on the other hand, that the die is a forgery; the forger, not knowing that there were well-recognized colours for each province, would proceed to print indiscriminately in all the known colours of both provinces; but he would print

sparingly, for he was a very astute person, and I should not be surprised to hear he knew a lot about "Die I."

But was the die after all genuine, and was M. Moens right in listing black as the only genuine colour? Then whence the other colours? Did the die get into wrong hands in Kashmir (in the case of such a supposition being correct, it could have happened only in Kashmir) and did the holder proceed to print off in all the known colours? That is improbable, if not impossible, because the printings would have been on a liberal scale, and the stamp would no longer have remained rare. Nor was there an official re-issue in many colours, as in the case of rectangular and circulars in 1875-6, because (1) copies would have been postally used, and the stamp would be better known, and (2) there would certainly be no mixing of the colours of both provinces—that depth of latter-day Kashmir Philatelic depravity was not reached till the period of the fancy reprints of obsolete stamps, in 1884 or later.

Finally, granting that all the impossibilities mentioned in the last paragraph were possible, then the stamps are the veriest reprints, even the blacks—for we may be certain they also would have been reprinted—and the prices should be reduced from pounds to pence. But the impossibilities are not possible.

CHAPTER VIII.

Missing dies or Official Forgeries.

I have tried, but in vain, to learn the history of this gigantic swindle—the duplication of all, or nearly all, the circular and old rectangular dies, and the sale to the unsuspecting public, and to many unsuspecting dealers, of thousands of impressions from these, as genuine stamps of Kashmir Captain Godfrey, the Assistant Resident in Kashmir, has made careful enquiries, but the old postal officials can give him no information. That the swindle was known to some high postal official there can be no doubt, for the stamps were openly sold to collectors at the State Post Offices up to the time when the Postal administration was taken over by the British Government in 1894. Indeed they were offered for sale—in all innocence—by the British Accountant-General, and by the Agent subsequently appointed by the State, until I questioned their genuineness in the columns of the *Philatelic Journal of India* in 1898. It seems that collectors at home had suspicions, and fought shy of these stamps—and indeed of all Kashmir stamps in consequence—but in India visitors to Kashmir had perfect faith in the circumstance that they were buying from a State department.

It has been suggested that some high State Postal official was the culprit; that he sold large quantities of reprints from the genuine dies, without accounting to the State for the proceeds, and that he replaced them in his Treasury by impressions from forged dies cut for the purpose. This is

not impossible, because all departments not directly under British administration were undoubtedly corrupt.* One part of the suggestion is any way correct—that the missing dies are contemporaries of the reprints, if they were not their juniors†, for they are never found postally used. It will be enough for the philatelists to know that these stamps should be left severely alone, and fortunately there are discrepancies in the dies that render detection possible. For their guidance I will point out the principal discrepancies that I have noticed.

1. Circular Dies.

I will place side by side (see Plate I.) clear impressions from the genuine dies, and impressions from the "missing dies," for each of the three denominations, those on the left being the ~~latter~~. I will follow the course suggested in Chapter III, by placing the first Persian letter in the position of the 12 o'clock on a watch dial. Taking first the genuine half-anna stamp, I will ask you (the enquiring collector) to examine the "figure-3-like" first Dogra letter. It stands out boldly by itself, in a perfectly comfortable position, resting on a single ray of the central sun, and is in no way dependent on its Persian neighbour to the left. In the other type this letter is in imminent danger of falling backwards, though resting on two rays, and it appears to have crooked its lower limb well into the Persian neighbour to prevent the catastrophe. The

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* Captain Godfrey accepts this solution, and says he remembers seeing the sheets of these stamps sandwiched with impressions from the genuine dies, when taking over the State remainders.

† Major Evans informs me they were not known in Europe until 1890, in which year he described them.

shape of the letter, and the position and its inclination in the circle, at once strike the eye as differing very decidedly in each type. Then the last letter of the five Dogra characters in the genuine type is slightly curved, and is placed at a slight angle to the figure "1" (of "1923" in Vernacular figures) immediately following; in the other type it is quite straight, and is not placed at an angle with the following figure 1, but in the same plane. Coming further down the dial, to the position of half-past 5 o'clock, two small lines will be found on the genuine type, which are in direction with two rays from the central sun; in the other type these two lines are drawn at a wide angle to the direction of these rays. Then take the right hand one of the three strokes in the centre of the sun: if you prolong this line downwards, it will pass through an inverted comma-shaped letter at 7 o'clock, in the genuine type; do the same in the other type, and the line will leave the comma well to the left, and will form an arrow to a bow-shaped letter at 6-15 o'clock.

Take next the one-anna stamp*, and two differences are easily detected—the second Dogra character, on the genuine type, is decidedly bent in the back, and the central stroke if prolonged upwards would come between it and the first letter; in the other type the same letter is perfectly straight-backed, and the stroke if prolonged would run up this back. In the genuine type the Dogra letters have all their ends sharp, in

* Since the above was written Major Evans has sent me a second type of a one-anna "missing die," which I illustrate It is dangerous in that the stroke in the central sun points in the proper direction, between the first and second Dogra letters. But fortunately it differs from the genuine stamp in other respects. (See Plate I, separate stamp).

the other they are blunt, and the third letter especially is "dumpy."

In the four-anna stamps the striking differences are that the shape of the second Dogra letter just reverses its appearance in the one-anna issue, being straight-backed in the genuine stamp and bent-backed in the other. The right horn of the semi-circle, in which the denomination stroke is placed, is crooked inwards, so as almost to touch the stroke, in the genuine, while in the other there is no crook. Were the stroke of the genuine type prolonged upwards, it would pass out between the first and second Dogra letters, that of the other would pass right through the left side of the first letter; and the two outer circles of the forgery are so close as to print an almost continuous single ring.

2. Old Rectangular Dies.

I have seen "missing dies" of the two, four and eight anna Kashmir Province stamps, and of the half-anna Jammu Province stamp. I give an illustration (See Plate VI) of the genuine and forged stamps, side by side, and I would very briefly point out the following differences:—

Two-annas—The fatal mistake is made in the forged stamp of leaving a margin on the four sides, which is of course impossible, seeing that the genuine two-anna stamps were printed in strips of five, each touching the other; the star at the top is small and badly formed; the dots in the spandrels are large and coarse, and there are only about 10 in each corner, between the lines, as compared with 13 to 15 in the genuine stamp; the first letter of the Dogra character is straight-backed instead of bent-backed. Major Evans informs

me that he generally finds these in fives—close together, to imitate the blocks of five in the genuine stamp.

Four-annas—The dots in the spandrels are entirely omitted in the forgery. The third letter of the date, at foot of the oval, resembles our 3, while in the genuine stamp it resembles our 2. There is an extra outline, also, to this and the 8-anna forgery.

Eight-annas—In the forgery the dots in the spandrels are again omitted; the star is much smaller, and the two lower lines in the oval (containing the denomination and date in Dogra) are badly cut and illegible.

Jammu half-anna—In the forgery (1) the mistake is again made of having a border all round, which I have shewn is impossible in impressions from the genuine plate; (2) the star at the top is fuller, and the ends of the rays are more blunt; (3) the first Dogra letter is straight-backed instead of bent-backed, and the third and fourth are joined, forming a rough "m"; (4) the third figure is like a 3 instead of a 2. What makes this forgery the more dangerous is that I have seen it "used," being obliterated apparently with the genuine Jammu square black seal.

If these eight stamps be examined from the right-hand side, instead of from below, the five Dogra letters resolve, themselves into roughly printed EIUYE, and it will be seen that in each case an attempt has been made to reproduce the exact shape of the originals, which differ slightly amongst themselves.

All three "missing die" circular stamps, and the three Kashmir Province rectangular ones, formed part of the State "stocks" that were on hand when the Postal Administration was taken over by the British Government; the Jammu Province imitations were, I believe, from a private source, but I include them here on the authority of Major Evans, who received some specimens along with the other "missing die" stamps and from the same source.

CHAPTER IX.

Service Stamp.

From the specimen book of the engraver, Rahat Joo, already mentioned, Captain Godfrey, Settlement Commissioner in Kashmir, rescued a proof of a most interesting stamp, which I believe I am justified in classing as the oldest Indian (State) service stamp which is known to philatelists. From the illustration* it will be seen that the design is not unlike that of the old circular stamps: but the central sun bears a human face instead of the usual characters showing the value of the stamp. The surrounding inscriptions are as follows:—In Persian, *khat zarúri* (urgent letter); in Dogra, *kakal zarúri* (urgent document); and in Shastri, *awa shakka pattar* (this I cannot get translated). This stamp was used for urgent documents, as the inscriptions shew. A letter or packet so stamped was forwarded most urgently, by night and day, passing from the hands of one runner to those of another, and it was accompanied by a "time bill" to shew the hours at which it passed from one village to another. Having been used only on the Maharaja's or on State Service, it may be classed as a Service stamp. It was printed in red. The diameter of the inner circle is 16½ mms., and of the outer 31mms.

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* Top stamp on plate III.

CHAPTER X.

Forgeries.

The forgeries by private enterprise are comparatively few, and I believe they are of recent date, always excepting the "Die I" stamps already described. I have seen only (1) a half-anna and a four-anna stamp, which are evidently from the same hand—and which probably had a one-anna die also to complete the set—and (2) a half-anna stamp, which differs considerably from these. I illustrate both ½ anna stamps*: the four-anna specimen I have is a smudged blue one, which cannot be reproduced by photography. Taking the solitary half-anna stamp first (that on the right in the illustration) it is easily detected by two material differences when compared with the genuine stamp. These are—(1) at the position of nine o'clock on the dial there is a character in the circular inscription that resembles a reversed letter R; in the forgery the lower limb of this letter is much longer than in the genuine stamp: (2) at the position of between 4 and 5 o'clock a long character, connected with the word "Kashmir" in Persian, is joined to the fourth figure of the date (1923) forming a rough forked twig; in the genuine stamp this character does not touch the figure. Coming to the other types, the differences are as follows:—

Four-anna stamp.—In the forgery, the rays of the central sun are short, and exactly like the teeth of a cog-wheel. Taking the first three Dogra letters, it will be found they are compressed into a space of 8 mms., measuring from what I shall call the abdomen of the first to the back of the head of the third, as against 9 mms. in the genuine type.

* At foot of plate V.

Half-anna stamp.—This die is very well cut. The central sun again resembles a cog-wheel. The first Dogra letter is a perfect figure 3, the upper and lower limbs being about the same shape, whereas in the genuine die the lower limb is crooked up and does not project as far as the upper. The second Dogra letter is straight-backed instead of bent-backed; the left of the three central strokes, instead of being slightly curved, is comma-shaped, and the second and third strokes, instead of being parallel, would if prolonged meet on the outer edge of the central sun. I have the half-anna stamp in three colours: (1) blue, like the four anna one, (2) what is meant to be black, but is really a dark brown, and (3) a dull-red.

Well printed copies of the second type of forgery can be detected by the two encircling rings: in the genuine stamps the outer ring is light, the inner heavy; in the forgery the outer ring is heavy and the inner so light that it often prints a dotted circle.

All these stamps can be met with occasionally bearing bogus obliterations, in imitation of the Srinagar brick and the Jammu magenta seal impressions.

CHAPTER XII.

Paper.

In the catalogues I find an attempt at chronological classification is made, according to the appearance or thickness of the paper on which the stamps were printed, e.g. "1866—grey laid native paper," "1869—native laid paper (a) very thick and rough, (b) thin and smooth," "1870-75—native laid paper, thick to thin." In my opinion any such classification is hopeless, and must end in confusion. All the stamps printed on Kashmir paper must, I fear, be generalised as on "native laid paper, thickish to thick," irrespective of the dates; and varieties (whose dates can be ascertained only from their obliterations) may be given as on "thin" and "very thick and rough" paper—for I have a single specimen of both these, the latter however being as an original bearing the date 1866 and not 1869 as catalogued. All Kashmir paper was—and is—made by hand, and by a very primitive process : it is impossible that in such a system of manufacture there could be any real uniformity of thickness, for different parts of the same sheet often vary in this respect; or of quality, for exactly the same materials could not always be procured for the manufacture.

I am indebted to a friend resident at Srinagar for the following description of the process of paper-making in Kashmir :—

We are told by the Pandits of Kashmir that Padshah Badshah, son of Sultan Sikander Badshekund, introduced the manufacture of paper into Kashmir, and that he imported skilled workmen from Samarkand for the industry. This, they tell us, was about 680 years ago.

The manufacture in Kashmir is at present carried on at two places in the Tehsil of Naoshehr (which is situated on the road leading from Srinagar to Ganderbal) and in the State Central jail at Srinagar.

The process of manufacture at the latter place is as follows:—

(1). Old cotton rags, with a mixture of a little hemp fibre, are beaten into a pulp at the Harwan water-works. From here the pulp is conveyed to the jail, where it is placed in a large earthen pot, and dissolved in a little water, men puddling it with their feet.

(2). Wooden tanks, about 6 feet square at top, and shaped thus **V**, are sunk into the floor of the jail work-shop, having a water tap at one end. The tank is filled with water, and sufficient of the worked-up pulp is then thrown in, being kept in suspension in the water. On one side of the tank the workman squats, holding a grated frame (size about 3 ft. × 3 ft.) in front of him, on which is laid a mat or screen made of grass, resembling a very fine window chick. The workman dips the frame, with the detachable grass mat on it, gently into the tank, until it is submerged: then raising it up, the fine mat acts as a sieve through which the water drains, leaving a film of the pulp on the screen. The screen bearing the film is then taken off the frame, and is laid face downwards on a board. The screen is then gently unrolled, and the film remains spread out on the board, as a sheet of paper, in size about 2′ 6″ × 2′ 6″. This process is repeated, and sheet after sheet is laid over each other until six quires are thus heaped up, which is about a day's labour. This heap is kept under pressure of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds, all night, to get rid of extra moisture, and in the morning is examined. If sufficiently dry the sheets, still in a damp state, are removed

one by one very carefully, and are plastered on to a wall, one over the other, and are carefully rubbed over with goats' hair brushes. Six to eight sheets are put over each other on the wall, and are left there, adhering to the wall for about two hours, to dry thoroughly.

(3). If colored paper be required, the coloring matter must be put in the tank holding the pulp.

(4). When dry the sheets are taken off the wall and passed on to a workman, who examines them, rejecting faulty ones, cuts them to required sizes, and sorts them into four qualities.

(5). The sheets are then handed over to other workmen, who have gloves made of felted ibex hair, from which the pushmina has been removed. With these gloves they smear the sheets lightly, one at a time, with a paste made of boiled rice flour. The sheet is then again hung up to dry, and the same glazing is later repeated on the other side.

(6). The sheets are then handed over to polishers, who hand-polish them, using a smooth flint stone, embedded in a piece of wood for a handle. Each sheet is rubbed very briskly on a board of hard wood.

(7). The sheets are put up in rolls of 24, and are sold at the following rates :—

Best quality	...	... Rs.	1-0 per quire.
1st ,,	...	... ,,	0-8 ,,
2nd ,,	...	... ,,	0-7 ,,
3rd ,,	...	... ,,	0-5 ,,

The whole process, from the time the sheets are taken out of the tanks till ready for packing, occupies about two days.

(A sample sheet of each kind is given at the end of this book.)

As regards stamps on European paper, I believe all were printed on laid foolscap, very similar to the paper used for the older Afghanistan stamps.

REFERENCE LIST.

In the following list I have included some stamps and shades not mentioned in the preceding chapters.

I.—CIRCULAR STAMPS.

These were used in the Jammu and Srinagar provinces. There was a single die for each denomination.

1866-67.

½ anna black.

1 „ „

1 „ blue.

1 „ ultramarine } *Shades.*

1 „ black-blue }

4 annas black.

4 „ blue.

4 „ ultramarine—*Shade.*

II.—OLD RECTANGULAR STAMPS.

(a) SRINAGAR PROVINCE.

1866-67.

1. PRINTED FROM A SINGLE DIE.

½ anna black.

1867.

From this year all printings were from plates or dies as follows :—

¼ anna 2 annas	from a plate containing 5 of the former in the upper row and 5 of the latter in the lower.
½ anna 1 „	from a plate containing four rows of 5 of the former and one row (the lowest) of the latter.

4 annas—from a single die.
8 annas—from a single die.

2. FIRST PRINTINGS.

½ anna black.
1 „ „

3. SECOND PRINTINGS.

½ anna blue.
1 „ „

1867-77.

4. PERMANENT PRINTINGS.

(The half-anna stamp cannot be distinguished from the same stamp of the second printings).

¼	anna	black.	
½	„	blue.	
1	„	orange.	
1	„	red-orange	*Shades.*
1	„	brown-orange	*Shades.*
2	annas	yellow.	
4	„	green.	
4	„	sage-green—*Shade.*	
8	„	red.	

The one-anna stamp is known cut laterally and used as a half-anna stamp, and the half-anna cut vertically and sued as or quarter-anna stamp.

(b) JAMMU PROVINCE.

These were printed in sheets from a block of three ½-anna stamps and one 1-anna stamp, the latter being the left-hand lower one on the plate.

1867.

1. FIRST PRINTINGS.

½ anna black.

1 „ „

1867-68.

2. SECOND PRINTINGS.

½ anna blue.

1 „ „

½	„	ultramarine	*Shades.*
1	„	„	
½	„	violet-blue	
1	„	„	
½	„	dull-blue	
1	„	„	

1868-77.

3. PERMANENT PRINTINGS.

½ anna red.

1 „ „

½	anna	orange	*Shades.*
1	„	„	
½	„	orange-red	
1	„	„	

In addition to the above three, there are other colours —vermilion, and even cherry-red—which might be "shaded" by advanced collectors.

1876.

4. SPECIAL PRINTINGS :

SUPPLEMENTARY TO BUT NOT SUPERSEDING THE PERMANENT PRINTINGS.

The black stamps of these printings can be distinguished from those of the first printings only by the obliterations.

½ anna bright-blue.
1 " "
½ " emerald-green.
1 " "
½ " black.
1 " "

1877.

5. OIL COLOURS.

In this year oil-colours were first used for the printings : but only to a limited extent. The bulk of the printing was done in what was the permanent colour for the water-colour stamps, *viz.*, red with shades : but some attempt must have also been made to reproduce in oils the special water-colours of 1876, as I have black and slate blue in my collection, besides stamps having a green tinge.

½	anna	red.	
1	"	"	
½	"	brown-red	*Shades.*
1	"	"	
½	"	black	*Special printings.*
1	"	"	
½	"	dark-blue	
1	"	"	
½	"	dark-green	
1	"	"	

6. OIL COLOURS ON EUROPEAN LAID PAPERS.

½	anna	red.	
1	"	"	
½	"	brown-red	*Shades.*
1	"	"	

III.—CIRCULAR RE-ISSUES.

After being obsolete for two or three years, the circular stamps were re-issued, FOR THE JAMMU PROVINCE ONLY, and were printed in the same colours as the Jammu province old rectangulars, from time to time. This list is, therefore, practically, a repetition of the colours of the Jammu rectangulars.

1869-77.

1. PERMANENT PRINTINGS.

½ anna red.
1 „ „
4 annas „
½ anna vermilion
1 „ „
4 annas „
½ anna orange
1 „ „
4 annas „
½ anna orange-red
1 „ „
4 annas „

(The vermilion, orange and orange-red entries are bracketed: *Shades.*)

1876.

2. SPECIAL PRINTINGS:

SUPPLEMENTARY TO BUT NOT SUPERSEDING THE PERMANENT PRINTINGS.

½ anna black.
1 „ „
4 annas „
½ anna emerald-green.
1 „ „
4 annas „
½ anna bright-blue.
1 „ „
4 annas „
½ anna yellow.
1 „ „
4 annas „

The black stamps of the above printing can be distinguished from the similar stamps of 1866-67 only by their obliterations.

1877.

3. OIL COLOURS.

½ anna red.	
1 „ „	
4 annas „	
½ anna red-brown.	*Shades.*
1 „ „	
4 annas „	
½ anna black	*Special printings.*
1 „ „	
4 annas „	
½ anna slate-blue	
1 „ „	
4 annas „	
½ anna sage-green	
1 „ „	
4 annas „	

4. OIL COLOURS ON EUROPEAN LAID PAPER.

½ anna red.	
1 „ „	
4 annas „	
½ anna brown-red	*Shades.*
1 „ „	
4 annas „	
½ anna black	*Special printings.*
1 „ „	
4 annas „	
½ anna slate-blue	
1 „ „	
4 annas „	
½ anna yellow*	
1 „ „ (?)	
4 annas „ (?)	
½ anna sage-green (?)	
1 „ „*	
4 annas „ (?)	

The one-anna red and four-anna blue stamps are also chronicled on *thick* European laid paper.

*I have not seen these stamps, used or unused, and I insert them in the list only on the strength of their appearing in Stanley Gibbons' catalogue. It seems to me natural the stamps should have been printed, seeing that similar colours were included in the contemporaneous water-colour special printings.

APPENDIX I.

A NEW STAMP.

I have mentioned the square obliterator used at Jammu from 1869 to 1878. I have made a much closer acquaintance with this obliterator while my book has been going through the press, and I find it so specially interesting as to deserve a supplementary chapter. I recognised the impression, amongst a number kindly supplied by Captain Godfrey—from the many obliterators, mostly of the new rectangular period, preserved in the Treasury at Jammu —and the seal itself has since been carefully examined. I reproduce the impression here. The inscription reads "*Mohr Ahan Kan, Jammu*," with the date 1915, in small figures at the top. This date corresponds with our 1858, eight years before stamps were introduced

in Kashmir, and there is nothing whatever to show how it came to be used for postal purposes. Nor is its original use clear: the translation generally arrived at by persons consulted by both Captain Godfrey and myself is "the seal of the iron quarries," and the idea is that originally it was for use at the iron mines at one time worked in the Jammu Province.

But what makes the seal specially interesting is that impressions from it were used as postage stamps, and this raises it to the dignity of a die. Captain Godfrey showed me an impression, on an undoubted original, where it appears half on the envelope, and half on a small square

of plain paper gummed to the envelope to represent a stamp. In this case perhaps the impression must still be considered only an obliteration, in which case the blank piece of paper becomes an unchronicled stamp! But impressions were also taken in the ordinary red water-colour of the Jammu old rectangular stamps, and pieces of paper having these impressions were undoubtedly used as stamps. I possess four copies, which puzzled me sorely: they are poor blurred impressions, but I was convinced they were from the obliterator, used as a die, and I often expressed this opinion to my friends: I did not, however, risk declaring them stamps until they became *chained* through Captain Godfrey's discovery. All four were used in September or October 1877, and all are obliterated in the usual way—the same seal thus being used as a die and as an obliterator. The only solution, I can think of is, that about this time the Post-office at Jammu—where all were posted—must have run out of postage stamps, and been under the necessity of manufacturing them on the premises. Captain Godfrey was assured by old officials that the obliterating seals were used to frank letters when Post-offices thus ran out of stamps, and he has envelopes bearing clear seal impressions, and no stamps, which would support this assertion. But it seems to me that when impressions are taken on separate pieces of paper, in the colours of the correct stamp, and these are obliterated in the usual way, then they cease to be "franks" and are raised to the status of postage stamps.

APPENDIX II.

PRE-PHILATELIC POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The following interesting paper by Captain Godfrey appeared in the *Philatelic Journal of India,* while this Hand-book was in the press, and it is re-printed to show what the postal arrangements in Kashmir were before the introduction of postage stamps:—

THE FIRST KASHMIR POSTAL SYSTEM.

By Captain Stuart H. Godfrey.

One of the chief difficulties which besets any effective enquiry into Kashmir postal history is the want of any reliable State records.

Their absence is due mainly to the fact common to most Oriental forms of Government, that the administration was almost entirely personal. In old days State officials generally kept their own records, and when, later on, the Afghans were driven out of Kashmir, and Maharaja Ranbir Singh, the son of the first Maharaja of Kashmir, Gulab Singh, systematised the Government of the country to a certain extent, the earlier records were not deposited in the public offices at Jammu. Some of the later papers might, it is true, have been traceable in the *Daftar Diwani* or civil office, but a fire which occurred there a few years ago, destroyed the great bulk of the older State papers. Fortunately the personal diaries of old State officials still remain with their descendants, and from these some glimpses, not always absolutely accurate in all their details, can still be obtained of the patriarchal methods of early Kashmir administration.

Once suspicion is disarmed, it is possible to obtain access to these documents, and they often reveal facts that have long since been forgotten in the public offices.

In an article published in a number of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, I gave a translation of a Pandit's diary, in which mention was made of the earlier postal seals of Jammu and Kashmir. While discussing this matter with another Pandit in Srinagar he informed me that he could obtain and show me the diary of the first postmaster of Kashmir, and also the sale accounts of the first Kashmir stamps. These he brought to me, and from the original Persian documents the following translation has been made. The dates are not as clear and full as might be wished. But the records concerning the first postal dies leave little room for doubt, if any still exists, that only one set of circular seals was used, and that the old division of Die I and Die II is a myth of misled philatelists.

The entry runs as follows:—

In the time when Kashmir was part of the Afghan Kingdom three kinds of messengers (*Kasid*) used to run on the route from Kashmir to Kabul and back.

1*st*.—*State messengers* (*Kasidan Sarkari*).—It was the duty of these messengers to carry State letters and papers, together with State property which was sent in small quantity. Their clerk was the father of one Gobind Kasid, and for this reason Gobind's family is called '*Kasid*' in Kashmir to this day. Goods sent in large quantity from Kashmir to Kabul and *vice versâ*, were carried by coolies under Government (*Sarkari*) guard.

2*nd*.—Special messengers of high officials whether of Kashmir or of Kabul.

3*rd*.—Private messengers who were looked upon as trustworthy by the traders (*Sahukars*). The traders had a kind of contract with them, and these messengers brought

from and carried to Kabul parcels and letters for the traders, on their own responsibility.

In the Sambat year 1876 (A.D. 1820), when His Highness the Maharaja Ranjit Singh became Ruler of Kashmir, the postal arrangements remained the same for some time, and Dhunde Khan, *Akhbar Navis* (news-writer) was appointed from Lahore as postal officer in Kashmir. Bhawani Das Majjoo was a clerk under him, and performed his duties at his own house in "Muhalla Tainkipura." After six months Dhunde Khan was dismissed, and Sukh Lall, who succeeded him, also did his work at home. After five months Sukh Lall was also dismissed, and Bhawani Das, a subordinate, was appointed in his place as *Akhbar Navis* (news-writer) in Kashmir, under the orders of His Highness the Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and the postal managements were also entrusted to him. Bhawani Das Majjoo was summoned to Lahore, and after receiving instructions from His Highness the Maharaja Ranjit Singh, he returned to Kashmir after two months to carry out his duties as *Akhbar Navis* (news-writer) and postal officer. He had his office at Sher Garhi, near "*Hast Hail*" (Elephant shed). The postal arrangements were as follows:—The mail was sent to Lahore *viâ* Shupiyan. At every seven *karohs* (14 miles) there was a postal *chauki*, or mail station. The following special messengers—Pandit Shankar Kasid, Ibrahim Bat, Kooli Bat, Rahman Bat, Guffar Thukkar, Usman Mir, Sultan Mir, Sharf Bat, Fatteh Sheikh, and Subhan Bat were appointed under Darogha Ahmad Ullah to superintend postal work and for journies to Lahore on special duty called "*Hazuri*."*

The mail was sent in the following manner:—Files of *Akhbar* (news) sent by the *Akhbar Navis* (news-writer) and postal officer, despatches transmitted by the *Subahdar*

* These men were evidently the Queen's messengers of the day.—S. H. G.

(Governor) of Kashmir, and papers posted by other officials on State Service were closed in a wax-cloth bag, the bag being sealed by sealing wax. Bhawani Das used his own seal on these bags. Mercantile correspondence and the letters of bankers (*Sahukars*) were sent through messengers (*Kasid*) as in the time of the Afghans. The mail was received by Lalla Rattan Chand, Dhariwala, who was the Postal Officer at Lahore.

In the Sambat year 1903 (A. D. 1847), in the time of His Highness the Maharaja Gulab Singh, Bhawani Das was detailed solely as Postal Officer and had nothing to do with *Akhbar Navisi* (news-writing). The Maharaja also appointed mail runners *viâ* Shupiyan to Jammu. The following postal *chaukis* or mail stations were fixed:—(1) Srinagar City, (2) Sher Garhi, (3) Shadi Marg, (4) Hirpur, (5) Sukh Sarai, (6) Aliabad, (7) Poshana, (8) Bahramgala, (9) Thanna, (10) Rajoori, (11) Sail Suee, (12) Dharam Shala, (13) Thanda Pani, (14) Doob, (15) Chauki Chaura, (16) Akhnur, and (17) Jammu. Pandit Lalchand, uncle of Bhawani Das, was appointed as mail officer and remained in charge of this duty till S. 1912. (A. D. 1856). From S. 1903 (A. D. 1847) to S. 1904 (A. D. 1848) the mail was sent to and from Jammu *viâ* Shupiyan on the system shown above. All official letters, letters of officials, of traders (*Sahukars*) and of the public generally were sent to Jammu through the State "*Sarkari*" Post, free of postage. In S. 1905 (A.D. 1849) the mail was sent *viâ* Banihal Pass. Postal stations (*chaukis*) were fixed at a distance of every five *karohs* (10 miles), and two mail runners were appointed at each *chauki* and *Daroghas* (overseers of runners) were appointed to superintend postal punctuality. Moreover *Hazuri* mail runners were apponted to carry State property sent in parcels, and sometimes they had to assist in postal supervision. In S. 1910 (A.D. 1856) the traders (*Sahukars*) complained that letters were delivered to them very late,

and upon this His Highness the Maharaja enhanced the number of mail runners to accelerate the delivery of letters. In S. 1914 (A.D. 1858), postal rates were first levied on the letters of the public and of traders (*Sahukars*), and postage (in cash) was charged at the following rates :—

			Equivalent to Imperial.
For letters not exceeding ¼ of tola	1½ anna *khám*	=	0 0 9 pies.
„ „ „ „ 1 tola	3½ annas „	=	0 1 9 „
For letters exceeding one tola, for every tola	1 anna	=	0 0 6 „

In the same year the traders (*Sahukars*) again complained that letters were delivered to them very late. The Maharaja then appointed Shah Asanand as cashier of postage of letters of traders (*Sahukars*), and was ordered to deliver letters to traders after taking delivery of them from the Post Office, and that he should post their letters after recovering postage. Shah Asanand kept a daily detailed account of posted and delivered letters of traders, and deposited the proceeds in the Treasury. The cash receipts for the postage of the letters of public (not being traders) were deposited in the Treasury through Bhawani Das. Letters of State officials were posted free of charge. A trader having complained that a *Hundi* (bill of exchange), posted to him from the Punjab was missing, His Highness the Maharaja, after making an enquiry, ordered that every letter should be stamped in the Post Office. On the postal seal which was given to the Kashmir Post Office, the following words were engraved in the Sanskrit character:—"*Sri Gada Dharji Sahai Mohr Dak Khana, Srinagar,*" and on the seal which was given to the Jammu Post Office, the following words were engraved—"*Sri Raghunath Ji Sahai Mohr Dak Khana, Jammu.*" In S. 1914 (A.D. 1848) Maharaja Gulab Sing died; and in the end of the same year Bhawani Das died also. Dewan Ram Majjoo was appointed Postal Officer (Postmaster) in place of his elder brother Bhawani Das by Maharaja Ranbir

Singh. In the same year the Maharaja improved the Postal Department by fixing a postal *chauki* at a distance of every *karoh* (2 miles), and appointed two mail runners at every *chauki* and one *Darogha* at every stage for the supervision of mail runners. The mails then reached Jammu from Kashmir in twenty-four hours. The time of departure was noted on the *chalán* (despatch slip) of the mail bag. On arrival of the mail, the time of departure was noted and any remissness became at once apparent. Every mail runner was supplied with a stick having an iron blade at one end and bells (*ghungru*) tied on, so that on the approach of the mail runners the pony owners and other travellers should leave the way clear for the mail to pass on. The mail runners were instructed to call the "*chaukiwla*" (overseer) from a distance by shouting "*khabardar*" ("look out!") so that the next runner on the road might be ready to take the mail and start at once. As the mail was carried full speed even at night time, stores of *chob chirág* (pine torches) were collected and kept at the *chaukis* (stations), and the mail runners used to run in the night carrying these torches.

New postal dies were engraved having on them the following words in the Sanskrit character:—"*Sri Gada Dharji Sahai Mohr, Dak Khana Jammu wa Kashmir wa Tibet.*" This was given to the Kashmir Post Office; and on the other seal which was given to the Jammu Post Office was engraved "*Sri Raghunath ji Sahai Mohr, Dak Khana Jammu wa Kashmir wa Tibet.*"

Until S. 1922 (A.D. 1856) the postage was charged in the manner as was suggested in S. 1914 (A.D. 1848).

In S. 1922. Maharaja Ranbir Singh ordered postal dies to be sunk at Jammu under the supervision of Wazir Zorawar *Tosha Khana* (or Treasury) officer, and postage stamps were ordered to be printed from them and fixed on letters from 11th Jeth, S. 1923. Till the end of the month of Har, S.

1923, Dewa Ram Majjoo, Postmaster, was entrusted to sell the postage stamps to the public,* and for State Service. In Sawan, S. 1923, Shah Diwan Singh (agent of Wazir Zorawar) appointed Gwash Ram Misre as 'Stamp vendor in Kashmir.' There were the following Postage Stamps :—

One of	½	anna each.	†
„	1	„ „	
„	4	„ „	

After a short time stamps of 2 annas and 8 annas‡ each were ordered to be printed. The previous rule of recovering in cash the postage of letters posted was cancelled, and the postage of unpaid letters was charged double. Letters which were posted from British territory (unstamped with Kashmir stamps) were charged as unpaid and postage recovered in cash. In the same year the following postage rates were fixed :—

	Imperial
Letters not exceeding ¼ tola	... 6 pies.
„ „ „ 1 tola	... 1 anna.
For every other tola	... 1 anna.

On all letters posted to British territory State postage stamps were fixed, and as the British postage stamps could not generally be had, letters posted to British territory were charged double as unpaid letters. In S. 1924 Maharaja Ranbir Singh appointed Colonel Devi Din as Postmaster-General, and he subsequently introduced into the State all the rules existing in the British Indian Post Offices. Leather bags were prepared, and the mail was sent in those bags. Bags were locked and sealed. The seal contained the following words in Persian character :—

"Mohr Dak Khana, Srinagar."

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* I have personally inspected these old registers.—S H.G.

† These are evidently the circular stamps.— D.P.M.

‡ This information is incomplete : a plate for rectangular ½-anna and 1-anna stamps was cut for the Jammu Province; and for the Srinagar Province plates for ¼, ½ and 1-anna and 2-annas, also single dies for 4 and 8-annas stamps, besides the special single die (the oldest) for ½-anna stamps.—D.P.M.

In S. 1935 the postage stamps were changed. His Highness the Maharaja ordered other dies. Specimens of these stamps were first sent to the then British Agent and afterwards they were ordered to be used. These stamps were used till the State Post Offices were brought under reduction. In S. 1942, Dewa Ram Majjoo, Postmaster, petitioned the Maharaja that he had become old and his son Krishn Jee Majjoo might be appointed in his place. Under the orders of His Highness, Krishn Jee Majjoo was appointed in his father's place, and Dewa Ram Majjoo was granted a pension of Rs. 15 (fifteen) per mensem. Krishn Jee Majjoo performed his duties till Sambat year 1951 (A.D. 1895).

In one point this diary does not quite agree with that of the Pandit published last. It speaks of *two sets* of postal seals used between S. 1914 and S. 1923. Of these one may possibly have been an office seal and the other used on envelopes as a letter paid stamp. However this be, the document coming from the postmaster's son would certainly seem authentic, and it is supported by the accounts which his father maintained of the payments made by him into the State Treasury for stamps sold.